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United Nations

Committee on Natural Resources

Report on the Second Session
(22 February - 4 March 1994)

Economic and Social Council

Official Records, 1994
Supplement No.6

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SUMMARY BY THE CHAIRMAN

At this concluding plenary meeting of the second session of the Committee on Natural Resources, on 4 March 1994, I would like to present a perception of the challenges faced by the Committee, an overview of the deliberations it held during the past two weeks and correlate the trend of its work with the considerations which have led to the reorganization of an earlier intergovernmental body into the present committee of experts.

Both mineral and water resources, which have been mandated to this Committee in particular, have been crucial elements throughout history for sustaining civilization. These resources, however, are finite, and their production and consumption affect other constituents of our environment. Thus a holistic approach is required to the planning and management of natural resources within the geographical boundaries of each country and also in the consideration of the global impact of national policies or measures.

The consumption patterns of natural resources in the developed countries, which other countries have targeted for emulation, are not sustainable. The urgent need for change in those patterns will, however, be better appreciated when data on the global assessment of these resources and the projection of future supplies in the light of expected new technologies become available.

The developing countries and economies in transition have a continued need for information, technology, funds and improved marketing mechanisms which would allow exploitation of their natural resources for the greater benefit of their populations and in the context of overall sustainable development, national as well as global.

The conflicting demands made by various factors of development affecting sustainability can be best resolved by precise identification of issues, scientific research, wide dissemination of results, and development of technology and its transfer and application to relevant economic and social needs. A global participatory and cooperative approach is necessary to tackle these problems, and the United Nations, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, being uniquely placed, can play a very important role.

Environmental protection and sustainable development require a global approach in which all sectors of society in each country are willing to participate. Universal realization of this concern, however, would not be achievable unless it were well blended with considerations of poverty alleviation and the social uplift of disadvantageously placed sections of the society.

The above challenges and goals remained well in sight while the Committee deliberated on various issues concerning water and minerals. The Committee noted that pressure on fresh-water resources was increasing tremendously, requiring urgent action to avert global crisis. More than 30 per cent of the world's population do not have access to safe drinking water. The way to deal with the problem is reasonably defined in Agenda 21, whose implementation requires a wholehearted approach.

The Committee recommended that priority must be given to the introduction of dynamic, interactive and integrated approaches to water and land management for sustainable development, including the assessment of fresh-water resources.

The deliberations of the Committee on mineral resources brought out the fact that the fundamental importance of mineral resources to economic development and quality of life was only implicitly reflected in Agenda 21. The Committee has therefore recommended to the Commission on Sustainable Development that it recognize, as a key issue for its deliberations on Agenda 21, the need to ensure the sustainable supply of minerals. The Committee also decided to develop a discussion paper on this issue in order to assist the Commission.

The Committee's discussions were influenced by its understanding of the socio-economic impacts of privatization of State enterprises in the developing countries and economies in transition. In framing its recommendations, the Committee was conscious that some of these impacts, coupled with a long-term trend of declining mineral prices, unless appropriately mitigated, could slow progress towards sustainable development by way of reduction in future investment prospects in these countries and also on inputs for protecting the environment from the effects of mining.

The Committee, being conscious of the purpose of restructuring various United Nations bodies, including this Committee, has focused on substantive and vital issues based on data and information developed jointly through close interaction with regional commissions and specialized agencies. Such an approach enhances the credibility of the Committee's recommendations and results in guidance and possible reorientation of future policies and work of United Nations agencies having a bearing on water and minerals.

In closing, I extend my personal thanks once again to the members of the Committee for expressing their confidence in me by electing me Chairman and for their excellent cooperation and the participatory spirit in which deliberations were held. On behalf of the Committee and myself, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the four Vice-Chairmen, Mr. G. J. Cano, Mr. D. Davis, Mr. N. Pavlovschi, and especially Mr. P. M. Chipungu, who also assumed the functions of rapporteur. Appreciation must also be expressed for the strong substantive support provided by the Secretariat and the excellent advice of the specialized agencies and the regional commissions.

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Coordination among United Nations organizations in the field of water resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 1/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 concerning the follow-up to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Aware of the need to minimize barriers due to different perceptions of water issues by the various agencies,

Aware that inter-agency cooperation needs to be further intensified in order to come to grips with the increased threat to human living conditions from water-related problems,

1. Notes with appreciation the important role of the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in the exchange of information and substantive coordination of programmes aimed at the sustainable development of water resources;

2. Notes with appreciation the coordinated efforts of the organizations of the United Nations system in the establishment of a system-wide integrated monitoring and assessment network, with a view to evaluating periodically the state of freshwater resources on a global basis, and recommends that they give urgent consideration to this task, in full cooperation with the regional commissions;

3. Notes with appreciation the work of the Collaborative Council for Water Supply and Sanitation;

4. Invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to take appropriate steps to develop integrated water, soil and land-use management strategies for sustainable development and conservation of the natural resources base;

1/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

5. Invites the World Bank to strengthen and expedite the activities of the International Programme for Technology Research for Irrigation and Drainage;

6. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system to provide assistance to Governments, as appropriate, for establishing or strengthening their databases as tools for integrated action in the development and management of water resources at the national and regional levels, such databases to incorporate, besides water-related data, socio-economic, biological, physical and chemical parameters into integrated systems, notably geographical information systems, which should be shared by sectoral authorities, decision makers, non-governmental organizations, research institutions and the private sector, and requests that priority attention be given to drought-prone countries, where haphazard development of water resources, in particular groundwater, is common;

7. Requests the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to further enhance their cooperation with regional and interregional organizations outside the United Nations system, as well as with relevant non-governmental organizations;

8. Requests the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to address the role of women in the provision, management and safeguarding of water resources as a matter of high priority in inter-agency coordination and joint programming of activities;

9. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system dealing with water resources to adopt and implement a holistic, integrated and balanced approach to water-related issues, taking into account both their economic and social implications and their impact on ecosystems, to adopt and implement a more coherent perception of water-related issues and to address the cognitive problems involved through effective intersectoral, interprofessional and interdisciplinary cooperation and effective joint programming in the area of water resources;

10. Recommends that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization take the necessary steps to promote a dialogue between members of the scientific community and decision makers, in which decision makers provide guidelines with regard to the relevant fields of research that would enable them to improve their management of water for sustainable development, and scientists provide information on developments in and possibilities of research that could be of value in the solution of management problems.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the

Developing Countries, 2/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/

Recalling also its resolutions 1987/12 of 26 May 1987, 1989/10 of 22 May 1989 and 1991/88 of 26 July 1991,

Recognizing that the application of the principle of permanent sovereignty in the area of mineral and water resources cannot be separated from other issues related to the sustainable development of water and mineral resources,

Reaffirming at the same time the importance of the principle of permanent sovereignty over natural resources to sustainable development,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources; 4/

2. Recommends that the issue of permanent sovereignty over mineral and water resources no longer be included as a standing item in the agenda of the Committee on Natural Resources, but that specific aspects of the issue be brought to the attention of the Committee under other items of the agenda relevant to the development of mineral and water resources;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to update section II (Water and the exercise of permanent sovereignty) of the report mentioned in paragraph 1 above for submission to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session, and in so doing:

(a) Devote special attention to issues related to shared water resources;

(b) Take into account comments made by members of the Committee on this issue, as well as comments provided by Member States and relevant non-governmental organizations, such as the International Law Association, on the draft articles on the law of the non-navigational uses of international water courses prepared by the International Law Commission;

(c) Include an analysis of trends in recent negotiations and agreements related to shared water resources and to identify barriers to the implementation of existing agreements;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a study containing a review of the mining legislation of selected countries - developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

3/ General Assembly resolution 45/199.

4/ E/C.7/1993/2.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Issues concerning the more efficient use of materials, their recycling, their replacement by high-technology substitutes, and the transfer of such technologies

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that mineral-producing developing countries and economies in transition cannot afford to be oblivious to the substitution of traditional materials that is taking place and also the trend in increased use of recycled mineral products in the major markets which they serve,

Aware that the trend in the demand for mineral products in the industrialized countries continues to decline as a result of a process of "dematerialization" - that is, replacement of traditional materials with new ones and with technologies less intensive in mineral products,

Concerned that the trends towards the substitution of minerals are disadvantageous to developing countries and could lead to a further deepening of the gap between developing and industrialized countries, with adverse consequences for global stability,

Taking into account that transfer of technology that would reduce costs and improve environmental conditions in developing countries and economies in transition, provision of information on substitute materials and a gradual shift towards downstream processing of materials are appropriate strategies to consider for addressing the problem,

1. Notes with concern the important and potentially negative effects that the reduction of demand from industrialized countries in minerals may have on developing countries and economies in transition;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in cooperation with relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, a study on the long-term effects of the more efficient use of mineral products, their recycling and their replacement by high-technology substitutes and on measures to be taken to improve the situation of developing countries, including capacity-building, transfer and adaptation of technologies relative to new materials production and processing;

3. Invites the Government of Italy and Governments of other industrialized countries to provide assistance in carrying out the study.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Guidelines of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Recalling also its decision 1991/306 of 26 July 1991,

Recognizing the importance of effective and coordinated implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR),

Bearing in mind that the activities aimed at disaster prevention and mitigation could not be separated from mainstream activities related to the sustainable development and management of water and mineral resources,

1. Takes note of the oral report of the Secretary-General on disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources;

2. Calls upon Member States to adopt proactive strategies in the field of water- and mining-related disasters;

3. Encourages all national committees established for the IDNDR to coordinate activities in the prevention and mitigation of mining- and water-related disasters and to establish local committees, as appropriate;

4. Requests the organs and organizations of the United Nations system to devote priority attention to the development of strategies and programmes that integrate water and land issues dealing with natural or man-made disasters related to water and mineral resources such as floods, drought-driven famine, massive pollution, dam failures, soil degradation or salinization, mine explosion or caving, or land subsistence;

5. Also recommends that the United Nations Secretariat be requested to prepare and publish a study on non-structural measures taken by various Member States for the prevention of disasters related to water and mineral resources;

6. Invites the Inter-secretariat Group on Water Resources to pay particular attention to the close interrelationship between the prevention and mitigation of water-related disasters and the sustainable development and management of water resources and ecosystems.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Integrated water resources management

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 5/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

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5/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

Recalling further the recommendations related to water, contained in Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 6/

1. Urges Governments to assign the highest priority to the establishment of a dynamic, interactive, iterative and multisectoral approach to water resources management for sustainable development, including the assessment and protection of potential sources of freshwater, as an essential precondition for the implementation of the recommendations contained in chapter 18 of Agenda 21;

2. Requests the organs and organizations of the United Nations system that are active in the field of water resources to continue to provide assistance to Governments, at their request, in carrying out national diagnostic assessments of water resources and institutional capabilities and in formulating strategies and action plans for the management of land and water resources for sustainable development;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the regional commissions and the United Nations specialized agencies and bodies, through the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to assemble global information on the seriousness of the water resources crisis and to identify future information needs and performance indicators which could be used to evaluate progress;

4. Requests each of the regional commissions to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session a regional report on progress made and issues arising in the implementation of the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and the water-related recommendations of Agenda 21, including case-studies available from Governments in their respective regions, in accordance with a general outline to be developed jointly with the secretariat of the Committee on Natural Resources;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, using the reports requested in paragraph 4 above and in consultation with the specialized agencies, to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session a synthesis report on the state of the world's freshwater resources, as part of the ongoing follow-up to Agenda 21;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on institutional and legal issues in water resources management for submission to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session, which would focus on:

(a) Organizational, administrative and managerial structures for the integrated management of water resources for sustainable development, specific attention to be paid to countries in tropical and water-scarce areas;

(b) Water-pricing practices;

(c) Identification of institutional barriers to integrated land and water resources management;

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

(d) Community participation, including the participation of women, in integrated water resources management;

7. Calls upon the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to provide strategic and policy support in the development of the implementation plan to avert the impending water crisis;

8. Decides that at its organizational session in 1995 the coordination and integration of water- and land-related activities will be considered as an item for the agenda of the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1995 with a view to ensuring that the appropriate core strategic and policy expertise is available within the United Nations system to address freshwater issues.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993,

Bearing in mind the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources as set out in the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed consolidated mandates of the new subsidiary bodies of the Council, 7/ especially paragraph 20 (a), (b) and (c),

Taking note of the initiatives being undertaken by the Secretary-General, and by other organizations, agencies and programmes such as the United Nations Development Programme, which are major contributors to United Nations mineral programmes, to adapt United Nations policies to the needs of sustainable development,

Mindful of the specific recommendations of Agenda 21, and in particular chapter 10, paragraphs 10.3 to 10.18 on an integrated approach to the planning and management of natural resources, 8/

Recalling also that the Commission on Sustainable Development at its first session, in its decision D, paragraph 35, inter alia, invited the Economic and Social Council to analyse and review the intergovernmental machinery in relation to the implementation of Agenda 21 in order, inter alia, to improve complementarity in the work of subsidiary organs and to make compatible the methodologies and data utilized,

Bearing in mind the fundamental importance of mineral resources to the technological advances that underpin development and the quality of life,

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7/ E/1992/76.

8/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I and vol. I/Corr.1, vol. II, vol. III and vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Noting the limitations of assessments based on identified resources in providing a long-term view of the availability of mineral resources in the context of intergenerational equity,

Recognizing existing activities of the United Nations system in the minerals field, in particular in regard to capacity-building,

Noting further the need for future United Nations programmes to be targeted to meet the challenges of sustainable development,

Recognizing also that perceived mineral resource potential is the most important single criterion for the mining industry in assessing the investment environment for exploration,

Taking into account that the most important step for the assessment of resource potential is the adequate geological definition of permissive tracts, that is, geological regions which permit the occurrence of various mineral deposit types,

Recognizing further that this information is an essential ingredient in considering wider issues of integrated land management and land use,

Affirming that the United Nations system could make a major contribution to the long-term management and sustainable development of mineral resources through developing a global knowledge base, at appropriate scales, of the potential for mineral resource exploration and development,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the valuable report of the Secretary-General on the review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs; 9/

2. Recommends that the Secretary-General, within the framework of United Nations Secretariat activities in support of the Commission on Sustainable Development, prepare a plan for the integration of existing information on mineral resource potential collected by the United Nations system, other organizations and Member States, on an ongoing basis, so as to develop an understanding of global mineral resource potential;

3. Recommends that the United Nations Secretariat and appropriate regional commissions convene an interregional and intraregional workshop to formulate a pilot project for an appropriate region, this project should develop standard approaches to the identification and qualitative assessment of permissive tracts and be based on Geographic Information System technology, which would allow integration with other land management information.

B. Draft decision

2. The Committee on Natural Resources also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

9/ E/C.7/1994/8.

DRAFT DECISION

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its second session;

(b) Endorses paragraphs 3, 9, 10 and 11 of the Committee resolution entitled "Integrated water resources management" in which the Committee endorses the need for a holistic approach to water and land management, as emphasized in Agenda 21, and decides that its mandate should include the interrelationship between soil and water resources, including groundwater, and the integration of land and water management issues, and that such issues should be included in the agenda of future sessions of the Committee; decides that freshwater issues be taken into account when deciding on the agendas of forthcoming international conferences, such as the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1966; requests that the Commission on Sustainable Development take into account the question of the rights of humanity and the duties of Governments in relation to the water cycle in connection with chapter 5 of Agenda 21, in accordance with paragraph 4 (c) of General Assembly resolution 47/191; and requests that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of the International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, pay particular attention to the most salient water interlinkages involved in the process of desertification;

(c) Endorses also paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Committee resolution entitled "Issues concerning the International Round table on Mining and the Environment and implications of environmental protection and conservation policies and strategies in the minerals sector" in which the Committee requests the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to prepare a series of studies on the impact of the environment of exploration and mining in developing countries and economies in transition, starting with precious and base metals, and review state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining waste and tailings for the recovery of useful mineral components in order to alleviate disposal problems;

(d) Further endorses paragraph 6 of the Committee resolution entitled "Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing minerals and water resources" in which the Committee invites the Inter-secretariat Group on Water Resources to pay particular attention to the close interrelationship between the prevention and mitigation of water-related disasters and the sustainable development and management of water resources and ecosystems;

(e) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Committee set out below:

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination focusing on progress made towards achieving sustainable development.

Documentation

Separate reports of the Secretary-General on water and mineral resources, respectively, focusing on progress made towards achieving sustainable development, describing the coordination and integration of activities of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as on changes made by the United Nations in response to Agenda 21 and on the success of programmes in meeting the goals set

Report of the Secretary-General identifying new and future uses to which remote-sensing technology and data sets can be applied in the mineral and water sectors

4. Review of progress on water-related issues:

(a) Review of regional and global information on the state of the world's fresh water resources;

Documentation

Separate reports of the Secretary-General on reviews of regional and global information, respectively, on the state of the world's fresh water resources

(b) Consideration of institutional and legal issues in water resource management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on consideration of institutional and legal issues in water resources management, with specific attention to countries in tropical and water-scarce areas

5. Review of implementation plans for averting the fresh water crisis.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of implementation plans for averting the fresh water crisis

6. Future water resources management issues and the strategies and policies that the international community should be considering in response.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the intersessional strategy paper of the Committee on National Resources on future water resource management issues and appropriate strategies and policies

7. Inflow of funds and new technologies in the mineral sector of developing countries and economies in transition:

(a) Complementarity between the roles and obligations of investors and involved parties of host countries considering the intrinsic value of mineral deposits and accrued benefits;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General covering the assessment of the benefits accruing to host countries from the inflow of funds and technology for mineral development, taking into account the intrinsic value of mineral deposits, with a view to providing guidance on mechanisms which would allow complementarity between the roles and obligations of the investors and the host Governments, all aiming towards the sustainability of development

(b) Socio-economic aspects of privatization of State-owned mineral assets.

Documentation

Oral report on the status of the study incorporating inputs from the United Nations system, as well as from other sources, on socio-economic implications of privatization of State-owned mineral assets, with particular reference to future mineral investment (including an assessment of changes in living standards and identification of possible remedial measures, and ways and means to establish a dialogue involving all parties concerned, e.g., Governments, local communities, trade unions and investors)

8. New global and regional approaches on mineral resource assessment and the role of the United Nations system:

(a) Integration of existing information on mineral resource potential to develop a global understanding;

Documentation

Oral report on the preparation of a plan for the integration of existing information on mineral resource potential collected by the United Nations system, other organizations and Member States, on an ongoing basis so as to develop a global understanding

(b) Interregional Workshop to formulate a pilot project in developing standard approaches to the identification and assessment of permissive mineral tracts.

Documentation

Oral report on the status of an interregional workshop to formulate a pilot project (for an appropriate region) which should develop standard approaches to the identification and qualitative assessment of permissive tracts and be based on geographic information system technology, which would allow integration with other land management information

9. Developments in small-scale mining.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on small-scale mining that includes a quantitative evaluation of its importance in the economies of developing countries and economies in transition (including an analysis of new approaches and developments focused on the role of local communities, the role of the private sector and the flow of foreign capital and the creation of joint ventures, and highlighting recent results obtained in some new areas of activity, e.g., building materials, mineral waters, geothermal waters, etc.)

10. Environmental protection and restoration issues arising from mineral industry activities.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General examining key advances in the development and application of state-of-the-art technologies for minimizing environmental degradation caused by the mining and processing of mineral resources (including information on the reprocessing of wastes and tailings and the elimination of negative ecological consequences of the past activities of mineral enterprises)

11. Integration of the issue of the sustainable supply of minerals into the United Nations processes for addressing Agenda 21.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the intersessional strategy paper of the Committee on Natural Resources entitled "Towards the Sustainable Supply of Minerals in the Context of Agenda 21" and an oral report on related actions by the Commission on Sustainable Development

12. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee.

13. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its third session.

C. Resolutions and decisions of the Committee brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolutions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 2/1. Integrated water resources management

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 10/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 concerning the follow-up to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling further the recommendations of the International Conference on Water and the Environment held at Dublin, Ireland in January 1992 and chapter 18 of Agenda 21, 11/ the action plan adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992,

Recognizing that water is a renewable but finite resource and that it has to serve the total needs of all natural ecosystems, as well as the needs of human society, particularly in the context of the fight against poverty,

Recognizing further that the scarcity and misuse of freshwater pose a serious and growing threat to sustainable development and to the protection of the environment and that human health and welfare, food security, industrial development and the ecosystems on which they depend are all at risk,

Acknowledging the crucial importance of the role and functions of the global water cycle, which is a life-supporting system that has to be shared by humanity and provides the water on which life and development depend, that it constrains the food production potential in the drylands; that adverse impacts of the water cycle include the leaching of minerals and human pollutants from the land, carrying them to aquifers, rivers and coastal waters, causing damage to biota and biodiversity; and that, any disturbances of the water cycle, including global warming, are propagated by circulating water, which has an increasing impact on landscapes and ecosystems,

Acknowledging further that the Committee on Natural Resources is the appropriate body to provide expertise and advice in the consideration of the parts of Agenda 21 and other policy documents related to water and mineral resources,

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10/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

11/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution I, annex II.

1. Notes with concern that, in view of the widespread coexistence of poverty and drought, sustainable development will be crucially dependent on the equitable management of the water cycle in allowing livelihood security and preventing water pollution and land degradation, and also notes that, as the water crisis is expected to escalate rapidly, the importance of cautious management of water resources will grow dramatically, with 3 billion people added to the world population in the next few decades;

2. Stresses the importance of formalizing the rights of humanity and duties of Governments in relation to the water cycle and the need for a global instrument or other formalized arrangement in the field of water as an integral component in efforts to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty;

3. Endorses the need for a holistic approach to water and land management, as emphasized in Agenda 21, and decides that the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources should include the interrelationship between soil and water resources, including groundwater, and the integration of land and water management issues and that such issues should be included in the agenda of future sessions of the Committee;

4. Notes that the ecosystem approach to water resources development and management taken by the Committee on Natural Resources at its first session will require a detailed inventory of biological data, in particular with regard to fisheries, water-borne diseases, eutrophication and biological indicators, in view of the overwhelming importance of water as a main carrier in the biological cycle;

5. Recommends that, for every major catchment/river basin, an initial diagnosis be made, from a medium-term perspective, of all the main issues related to the waters passing through the catchment basin above and below ground, including an analysis of how crucial problems may be overcome and the administrative, financial and legislative measures and the incentives that might be needed to solve those problems;

6. Recommends that additional concessional financing be made available for achieving the objectives contained in Agenda 21, which will require the establishment of priorities for action at the national level and the support of the international community, and also recommends that greater external financial support be given to developing countries for the purpose of improving their capacity for integrated management of soil and water resources, including groundwater;

7. Further recommends that the concept of demand management be used as a means of relieving pressure on scarce resources, and encourages public participation in the planning and management process, in particular the participation of women;

8. Recommends that, in view of the great diversity of conditions faced by regions of the world in which water is in short supply, selected case-studies be carried out to identify the main underlying causes and characteristics of those conditions, that these case-studies be based on a holistic approach, taking into account both bio-geochemical and socio-technological cycles of water, with a view to supporting human resources development in developing countries, and that priority be assigned to drought-stricken regions of developing countries;

9. Decides that freshwater issues be taken into account when deciding on the agendas of forthcoming international conferences, such as the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996;

10. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development to take into account the question of the rights of humanity and the duties of Governments in relation to the water cycle in connection with chapter 18 of Agenda 21, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/191, paragraph 4 (c);

11. Requests the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of the International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to pay particular attention to the most salient water interlinkages involved in the process of desertification;

12. Urges Governments to give consideration to the adoption of water-pricing policies, bearing in mind their specific socio-economic requirements and constraints.

Resolution 2/2. Capacity-building in the field of water resources

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/158 of 19 December 1977, in which the Assembly approved the Mar del Plata Action Plan, 12/

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/181 of 21 December 1990 concerning the follow-up to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade,

Recalling further the recommendations of the United Nations Development Programme Symposium on a Strategy for Water Resources Capacity-Building, held at Delft, the Netherlands in June 1991 and those of the International Conference on Water and the Environment held at Dublin, Ireland in January 1992 and chapter 18 of Agenda 21, 13/ the action plan adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992,

Recognizing that capacity-building is one of the essential preconditions for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the achievement of sustainable development, and that human resources development is of particular importance as a tool for the institutional strengthening of governmental, private and non-governmental organizations,

Bearing in mind that national capacity-building in the area of water resources management must include the capacity to undertake regional assessments

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12/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

13/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

of the relationship between water and soils as a resource, based on strategic scientific surveys involving geological and hydrological approaches, together with relevant socio-economic and ecological studies, as well as the capacity to integrate this information with other information sets in a holistic management strategy,

1. Stresses the importance of strengthening technical cooperation and coordination in capacity-building in developing countries, together with increasing North-South cooperation, especially in the areas of financial support and technology transfer, since the achievement of sustainable development in the field of water resources will require a fair and equitable sharing of knowledge between developed and developing countries;

2. Stresses the need to develop policies aimed at the retention of trained personnel to implement water resources development and management programmes continuously and successfully and the importance of coordinated action to build the required capacity in developing countries;

3. Welcomes the ongoing assistance of various United Nations organizations with regard to capacity-building for water resources development and management;

4. Recommends that the organizations of the United Nations system promote capacity-building as a component of all technical cooperation programmes, unless a specific need for a separate programme is identified, that such assistance be increased in the future, taking into account local conditions, specific needs, and constraints faced by individual countries and that, besides training and the transfer of technology, this assistance also include the adequate provision of equipment and machinery;

5. Further recommends that with respect to on-the-job training, the wider requirements of capacity-building for water resources planning and management be taken into consideration.

Resolution 2/3. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of mineral resources

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Bearing in mind the current restructuring in the economic and social sectors of the United Nations Secretariat,

Convinced of the need to increase the effectiveness and relevance of the work of the United Nations system in the field of mineral resources,

Recognizing the importance of mineral resources for sustainable development, particularly of developing countries and economies in transition,

Emphasizing the important social role of mineral resources development and its potential contribution in the fight against poverty,

Stressing the importance of the social implications of the ongoing trend towards privatization of the mining activities,

Noting with regret the absence of a report on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration at the first session of the Committee,

1. Takes note of the statement of the United Nations Secretariat on activities of the United Nations system in the field of mineral resources;

2. Welcomes with appreciation the technical cooperation activities carried out by the Department for Development Support and Management Services in the field of mineral resources, including their economic and scientific aspects;

3. Notes that, while considering issues that are common to the exploration, extraction and processing of mineral resources in general, and environmental impact of those activities, the Committee would not necessarily wish to exclude energy resources;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session a report on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector;

5. Requests the Secretary-General in that report to pay special attention to projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of the developing countries and economies in transition (i) to develop effective foreign investment policies and negotiate mining investment agreements and (ii) to develop and implement adequate social policies to respond to the ongoing trend towards privatization of the mining sector;

6. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session a report on the activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration;

7. Further invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in that report information on current administrative mechanisms and financing arrangements, as well as extensive assessment of achievements and future programmes of activities of the Fund, taking into consideration the increased involvement of private foreign mining companies in the mining sector of developing countries and economies in transition.

Resolution 2/4. Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/87 of 26 July 1991,

Concerned about significant cut-backs in assistance programmes since the mid-1980s which could not be compensated by the inflows of foreign investments to the mineral sector of developing countries,

Recognizing the need for a mechanism to monitor the flow of funds to developing countries,

Noting that the United Nations is the best equipped to establish a mechanism to monitor the flow of funds to developing countries,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries;

2. Acknowledges the importance of multilateral and bilateral aid programmes for developing the mineral resources of developing countries, as well as the growing importance of private foreign investment;

3. Calls upon the developing countries to address a multitude of cross-sectoral issues in order to remove barriers to the flow of foreign investment in the mining sector;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session an updated report on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and the development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources sector of developing countries and economies in transition;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in that report information on requirements for environmental protection, as well as to devote special attention to the collection and adequate presentation of geological and mining information and to the conditions of mineral rights and include country profiles (political and commercial risks), and relevant information available from non-governmental organizations.

Resolution 2/5. Issues concerning the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment and implications of environmental protection and conservation policies and strategies in the mineral sector

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/87 of 26 July 1991,

Emphasizing the importance of identifying the cost of compliance with environmental regulations,

Noting with satisfaction that review of mining legislation of developing countries in order to adjust it to sustainable development requirements has been an important area for the provision of support and advisory services by the United Nations,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on conclusions and recommendations of the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment, held in Berlin in 1991, and of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

2. Recognizes the need to harmonize environmental regulations and measures aimed at attracting foreign investment in developing countries and economies in transition;

3. Emphasizes the need for reasonable government control to deal with both the concerns of mining companies and the protection of the environment;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session a report on the effects of changing environmental legislation and regulations applicable to the mining industry on a global basis;

5. Also requests the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to prepare a series of studies on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining in developing countries and economies in transition, starting with precious and base metals;

6. Further requests the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system to review state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining waste and tailings for the recovery of useful mineral components in order to alleviate disposal problems.

Resolution 2/6. Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding enterprises in this area

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/87 of 26 July 1991,

Taking into account the results of the United Nations International Seminar on Guidelines for the Development of Small- and Medium-Scale Mining, held in Zimbabwe in February 1993,

Having taken note of the Guidelines adopted at this Seminar which call for an action plan for Governments and development agencies alike, to enhance the contribution of small-scale mining to overall economic development,

Recognizing the need for realistic environmental provisions and regulations addressing small-scale mining as a necessary component of any legislation and regulation,

Recognizing also the need for model legislation being based on the concept of mining tenure,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on recent achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries;

2. Stresses the need for usefulness of demonstration projects applying appropriate technology for small-scale mining;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session a report on small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to include in that report information on the impact of small-scale mining on environmental and social aspects of the regions selected (giving priority to precious metals, industrial minerals and construction materials); the drawing up and/or adaptation of related legislation and regulations; typical mechanized small-scale mining operations, conditions and possibilities for implementing them; and improvement of miners' working conditions, with special attention to the role and contribution of women;

5. Encourages the organizations of the United Nations system to conduct in selected regions and countries regional and national case studies of selected mineral products which should provide an integrated view of environment (the physical and biological settings considered in an ecosystem analysis), social, economic and technological issues.

Resolution 2/7. Priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of mineral resources

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/87 of 26 July 1991,

Recognizing the need for gathering, classifying and interpreting information in a systematic manner to provide knowledge to assist the sustainable management of natural resources,

Considering that the factors controlling foreign direct investment are well known and that data on the source and magnitude of investment flows to developing countries would not, by themselves, lead to a better identification of individual factors controlling such flows,

Bearing in mind that at the national level, capacity-building programmes would assist government management of the mineral sector by providing the scientific infrastructure to attract foreign investment and by placing the mining sector within the context of overall land and environmental management,

Aware that competing requirements for land use are reducing the accessibility and availability of the intrinsic potential of soil, water and mineral resources in many areas of the world,

Stressing the need for information on the progress of a particular aspect of capacity-building in developing countries, which is the building of systematic knowledge bases concerning the nature, quantity and location of mineral resources and of mineral resource potential,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on proposal for a mechanism to monitor and gather information on a regular basis on issues concerning the flow of investment in the mineral sector of developing countries and capacity-building in investment promotion;

2. Calls upon the organizations of the United Nations system to encourage strategic programmes of regional resource assessment and land classification at both the national and international levels which will assist the approach to integrated water and land management in a socio-economic context. Such programmes should aim at integrating information concerning water and soils as well as minerals in order to understand how the areas of potential for the different resources relate to each other and to various land uses;

3. Invites the organizations of the United Nations system to undertake a study of methodologies to relate the existing analysis of activity in the mining sector to the longer-term mineral potential of geologic regions controlling mineral deposit types;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its second session a report containing a review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs.

Resolution 2/8. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/65 of 3 December 1986 on principles relating to remote sensing of the Earth from outer space,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/9 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/8 of 22 May 1989 on new techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources,

Emphasizing that new techniques, such as remote sensing by satellite, play a complementary role in identifying, exploring for, evaluating and managing mineral and water resources,

Noting that remote sensing will be of paramount importance for monitoring and understanding the global hydrological cycle and environmental change,

Further noting that the application of new technologies and their most effective combination, including airborne and satellite technologies, should be based on an evaluation of needs and the nature of the problems or data gaps,

Considering that, when addressing the subject of remote sensing in its future work, the Committee on Natural Resources should focus, in particular, on the possibilities for the establishment of national or, as appropriate, local natural resources management systems to address issues related to space technology applications in the mining and water resources sectors, as well as those related to environmental issues in connection with resources development,

Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee for its second or third session, a note containing information on existing internationally agreed principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data are related, as well as information on the present state of activities related to this issue within the United Nations system,

Further requests the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources to officially transmit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Secretariat entity and possible further action, technical comments, observations and suggestions made during the discussion of this issue.

Resolution 2/9. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993,

Stressing the need to raise awareness of the magnitude of the global water crisis,

Recognizing the importance of water and mineral resources for sustainable development, in general, especially in developing countries and economies in transition in particular,

Mindful of the need to enhance the coordination and integration of activities in the water resources sector, both within and outside the United Nations system,

Concerned about the inadequacy of financial resources for the United Nations technical cooperation programmes in the development of mineral and water resources,

Emphasizing the importance of the development and implementation of adequate social policies to respond to the continuing trend towards privatization of the mining sector,

Aware of the decline in voluntary contributions to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,

Emphasizing the need for the restructuring of the Fund in the context of the general trend towards privatization in the mining sector,

Bearing in mind the important role of satellite remote sensing for thematic mapping in exploring and exploiting natural resources and for monitoring environmental factors related to natural resources development and natural disasters,

Taking into account the internationally coordinated multidisciplinary spaceborne programme and the new series of satellite sensors, as well as the transmission service of high resolution images from spacecraft,

Bearing in mind the requirements of developing countries in having rapid access to information for their sustainable development,

1. Notes with appreciation the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and inter-agency coordination in the field of water resources, 14/ on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector, 15/ and on existing international principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data are related, and present state of activities within the United Nations system 16/ and the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; 17/

2. Acknowledges the value of overview reports covering the activities of the United Nations in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination;

14/ E/C.7/1994/2.

15/ E/C.7/1994/3.

16/ E/C.7/1994/11.

17/ E/C.7/1994/12.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare separate reports on water resources and mineral resources, which will focus on progress made towards achieving sustainable development, describing the coordination and integration of activities of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as on changes made by the United Nations in response to Agenda 21 18/ and on the success of programmes in meeting the goals set;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for submission to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session, identifying new and future uses to which remote sensing technology and data can be applied in the mineral and waters sectors;

5. Calls upon the regional commissions and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to prepare concise background reports on their activities, that are directly relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee;

6. Requests that these background reports be circulated to the members of the Committee at least two weeks in advance of the third session of the Committee.

Resolution 2/10. Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries and economies in transition

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993,

Bearing in mind that the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology are means for sustainable development and not an end in itself,

Noting the long-term trend of declining mineral prices,

Aware of the non-renewable character of mineral resources which require optimal recovery and utilization, as well as the mitigation of any adverse economic impact on the termination of mining activities,

Acknowledging the trend towards privatization of state-owned mineral assets,

Concerned about the social impact of privatization on the local communities living in the mining areas,

Affirming the need for continued assistance from the United Nations system in developing legal and fiscal regimes which will help the host countries to achieve equitable sharing of benefits of mineral development between the host Government, the local population and the investors, and which will enhance the capabilities of developing countries and economies in transition in the negotiation of agreements on investment and their monitoring,

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18/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 2-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Recognizing the role that United Nations agencies can play in developing mechanisms to balance the interests of foreign investors, the host Government and local communities on return on investment, and also sustainability of economic development,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and the development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources sector of developing countries and economies in transition; 19/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the third session of the Committee on Natural Resources covering assessment of the benefits accruing to host countries from the inflow of funds and technology for mineral development, taking into account the intrinsic value of mineral deposits, with a view to providing guidance on mechanisms which would allow complementarity between the roles and obligations of the investors and the host Governments, all aiming towards the sustainability of development;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to conduct a study incorporating inputs from the United Nations system as well as from other sources on the socio-economic implications of privatization of state-owned mineral assets, with particular reference to future mineral investment;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in this study an assessment of changes in living standards and identification of possible remedial measures, including ways and means to establish a dialogue involving all parties concerned, namely, Governments, local communities, trade unions and investors.

Resolution 2/11. Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993,

Recognizing that small-scale mining has the potential to make a significant positive contribution to social and economic development in several parts of the world,

Recognizing also that illegal or poorly managed small-scale mining activities have been shown to be damaging to the general and the working environments,

Bearing in mind that limited financial resources for occupational and technological improvement are inherent in small-scale mining,

Noting that small-scale mining activities are often scattered over large areas, therefore hampering the ability of government to monitor them properly,

Convinced that the development and implementation of appropriate legislation and regulations that will encourage the mechanization of existing small-scale mining and its incorporation into the formal sector, as well as

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19/ E/C.7/1994/7.

promote new activities, will contribute to the alleviation of rural poverty and the achievement of sustainable development goals referred to in Agenda 21, 20/

Bearing in mind the significant contribution of women to small-scale mining in many countries and the importance of their role in the management and control of its environmental impact,

Mindful of the need for increased access of small-scale miners, including women, to vocational training, technology transfer and financial credit, particularly through the activities of international, governmental and non-governmental organizations,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition; 21/

2. Stresses the need for new efforts at the national, regional and international levels in support of small-scale mining activity;

3. Calls for new initiatives in bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation to be undertaken by intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance the contribution of small-scale mining to economic and social development;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session a report on small-scale mining that includes a quantitative evaluation of its importance to the economies of developing countries and economies in transition;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to include in that report an analysis of new approaches and developments, focusing on the role of local communities, the role of the private sector, the flow of foreign capital and the creation of joint ventures;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to highlight in that report recent results obtained in some new areas of activity, such as building materials, mineral waters and geothermal waters.

20/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

21/ E/C.7/1994/9.

Resolution 2/12. Effects of environmental protection and conservation policies on the mineral sector (including consideration of available studies by concerned entities of the United Nations system on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining, and review of state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining wastes and tailings)

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993,

Concerned about the need to ensure that the sustainable development of mineral resources is a continuing objective of host countries in the development of those resources,

Noting the mechanisms to address the management of the environment through both regulatory and new approaches to management and training with respect to technical developments,

Further noting the need to achieve transfer of technology and accommodate innovation and development of clean technology in the mining industry,

1. Takes note with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the effects of changing environmental policy on the world mineral industry; 22/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session a report that examines key advances in the development and application of state-of-the-art technologies for minimizing environmental degradation caused by mining and processing mineral resources;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to include in that report information on reprocessing wastes and tailings and eliminating the negative ecological consequences of past activities of mineral enterprises.

4. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

22/ E/C.7/1994/10.

Decision 2/1. Follow-up to chapter 18 of Agenda 21

1. The Committee notes with concern the slow pace of progress with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan 23/ and of Agenda 21. 24/ In spite of the progress achieved during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, it is estimated that, as of 1990, 31 per cent of the world's population did not have access to safe water, and 44 per cent lacked adequate sanitation. 25/

2. Furthermore, the Committee notes with alarm that some 80 countries, comprising 40 per cent of the world's population, are already suffering from serious water shortages and that, in many cases, the scarcity of water resources has become the limiting factor to economic and social development. Ever-increasing water pollution has become a major problem throughout the world, including in coastal zones.

3. The Committee stresses the importance of articulating the rights of humanity and duties of Governments in relation to the water cycle and the need for accelerated action in the field of water as an integral component of global efforts to achieve sustainable development. It reaffirms the right of all human beings to have access to water of suitable quality, as well as the need to prevent irreversible damage to the environment.

4. The Committee affirms that the biosphere is critically dependent on the water cycle, which is being seriously affected by human activities, and that each phase of the cycle has a decisive effect on the sustainability of life in all its forms.

5. In view of these considerations, the Committee on Natural Resources decides to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development the following recommendations, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993, for use in its review of freshwater at its second session in 1994:

(a) That the Commission on Sustainable Development recommend to Governments the carrying out of diagnostic assessments of their national water problems and issues, including, as appropriate, all the various uses of water; current institutional arrangements and human resources capacities; and harmful effects of water-related disasters. These assessments should be used in formulating strategies and action plans for the integrated management of land and water resources, taking into account the two-way interaction between land use and water resources, encompassing both dependency and generation of impacts. These action plans should also take into account the close interrelationship among water resources development, population growth, food production, health and other socio-economic considerations;

23/ Report of the United Nations Water Conference, Mar del Plata, 14-25 March 1977 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.77.II.A.12), chap. I.

24/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I and vol. I/Corr.1, vol. II, vol. III and vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

25/ See report of the Secretary-General on achievements of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade 1981-1990 (A/45/327).

(b) That the Commission on Sustainable Development affirm the vital importance of establishing a global implementation plan to avert the pending water crisis, incorporating principles for the effective management of land and water resources and guidelines and schedules based on Agenda 21;

(c) That the Commission on Sustainable Development support the formulation of such an implementation plan to be reviewed by the Committee on Natural Resources in 1996, which would incorporate the following considerations:

(i) The plan should define specific areas of priority, identify approaches, tools and mechanisms that can accelerate action by people and Governments at all levels and by the international community, in order to diminish significantly by the year 2010 the threat to freshwater resources;

(ii) The plan should be action-oriented and should recognize both the potential partnerships among Governments, the user level and the private sector, and the need to involve all sectors of the community;

(iii) The plan should give operational guidelines to integrate land and water resources issues in formulating a systemic approach to water resources management for sustainable development;

(iv) The plan should promote the development of improved administrative approaches for the effective management of land and water resources, and for raising the visibility of global water issues;

(v) The plan should emphasize the need for the sustainable utilization of finite and vulnerable water resources, especially groundwater, and the ways to determine the economic and social value of water, for the allocation of water among competing uses and for use with pricing mechanisms;

(d) That the Commission on Sustainable Development support the formulation of the implementation plan to avert the impending water crisis, and, to this end:

(i) Undertake to consider a draft of this plan at its fifth meeting, in 1997;

(ii) Approve the formulation of the plan by the Working Group on Water of the Committee on Natural Resources jointly with the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources, drawing upon the results of the regional meetings of the United Nations Environment Programme already scheduled to address the issue and other relevant activities of the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations;

(iii) Encourage interested Governments and the international community to sponsor events to raise awareness of the impending water crisis, including the full utilization of the opportunity afforded by the World Day for Water;

(e) That the Commission on Sustainable Development, in its review of chapter 10 of Agenda 21, on an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, pay attention to chapter 18 and, in particular, programme area A, on integrated water resources development and management;

(f) That the Commission note the decision of the Committee on Natural Resources to prepare a strategy paper on water resources, which could be made available to the Commission at its third session, in 1995, as a background paper.

Decision 2/2. Recommendations on mineral resources for transmission to the Commission on Sustainable Development

The Committee on Natural Resources decides to transmit the following recommendations to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, in 1995, through the Economic and Social Council:

The Committee recommends:

(a) That the Commission on Sustainable Development recognize the need to ensure the sustainable supply of mineral resources as a key issue in its consideration of all four of its critical elements of sustainability (cross-sectoral cluster A: (1) International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies (chap. 2 of Agenda 21); (2) combating poverty (chap. 3 of Agenda 21); (3) Changing consumption patterns (chap. 4 of Agenda 21); and (4) Demographic dynamics and sustainability (chap. 5 of Agenda 21)) and also as a key element in an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources (sectoral cluster G, chap. 10 of Agenda 21); 26/

(b) That the Commission give particular attention to this issue in the provisional agenda for its third session, in 1995, not only in its consideration of clusters A and G, but also in its consideration of cross-sectoral cluster B (Financial resources and mechanisms (chap. 33 of Agenda 21)); cross-sectoral cluster C (Science for sustainable development (chap. 35 of Agenda 21)); and cross-sectoral cluster D (Integrating environment and development in decision-making (chap. 8 of Agenda 21)) and information for decision-making (chap. 40 of Agenda 21); 26/

(c) That the Commission note the need to forge an effective dialogue between the United Nations system and all interested parties, in particular the international mineral industry, in developing new approaches;

(d) That the Commission note the decision of the Committee on Natural Resources to prepare a strategy paper on the above aspects of the key issue of the sustainable supply of mineral resources, which could be made available to the Commission at its third session, in 1995, as a background paper.

26/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 5A (E/1993/25/Add.1), chap. I, decision A, annex.

Chapter II

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF WATER AND MINERAL RESOURCES, AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

5. The Committee considered agenda item 3 at its 1st to 4th meetings, on 22 and 23 February 1994. It had before it the following reports:

(a) "Activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and inter-agency coordination in the field of water resources" (E/C.7/1994/2);

(b) "Technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector" (E/C.7/1994/3);

(c) "Existing international principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data are related, and present state of activities within the United Nations system" (E/C.7/1994/11);

(d) "United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration" (E/C.7/1994/12).

6. The Director of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration introduced the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration (E/C.7/1994/12). He cited the role and activities of the Fund in assisting Governments to broaden their knowledge of their mineral endowment and to attract private-sector capital to develop discovered mineral deposits. He noted the increasing difficulties in financing activities through the Fund and the importance of maintaining contributions from individual countries, and he urged the Committee's continuing support.

7. The representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services presented the report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector (E/C.7/1994/3). She provided an overview of the United Nations organizations undertaking technical cooperation activities in the mining sector and described the methodology and evaluation of United Nations system activities, highlighting initiatives in support of capacity-building, investment promotion and environmental management. She concluded by briefly describing the application of geophysical technology to humanitarian assistance efforts in the area of land-mine clearance in war-ravaged countries.

8. The representative of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development introduced the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and inter-agency coordination in the field of water resources (E/C.7/1994/2). He described the progress achieved within the United Nations system in adopting a comprehensive approach to implementing the recommendations of Agenda 21 on freshwater resources. He cited the need for a more holistic and integrated approach to land and water resources development and management, and emphasized the importance of strengthening coordination at the country level and improving the flow and management of information.

9. The representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services presented the report of the Secretary-General on existing international

principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data were related, and the current state of activities within the United Nations system (E/C.7/1994/11). He summarized selected remote-sensing concepts, indicating that future activities would be increasingly multidisciplinary in order to monitor environmental conditions on a global scale. He described some of the principles relating to remote-sensing and activities undertaken by the United Nations system in remote-sensing, and cited the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat as the main focal point in promoting international cooperation in space.

10. A number of experts emphasized the need for more integrated approaches in the management of natural resources, calling for a holistic approach that would also encompass ecological, social and economic considerations. Governments were encouraged to integrate such approaches into national development plans.

11. With regard to water resources, several experts, while noting progress achieved, stressed the need to strengthen coordination and harmonization mechanisms at all levels, as well as within sectors, so that the goals of Agenda 21 could be achieved in practical terms. Particular attention should be directed towards achieving action at the global political level, with emphasis also on programme formulation. It was also proposed that funding organizations and non-governmental organizations be involved in that process.

12. Several experts noted the important role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Water Resources as a mechanism for addressing duplication; one expert suggested it direct greater attention to aspects of integration and definition of strategic directions.

13. The need to broaden the dialogue on improving coordination was also stressed, with a view to involving non-governmental and professional organizations, bilateral entities and other external support agencies in that process. That might be achieved through extended sessions of the ACC Subcommittee or by other means.

14. One expert proposed that Governments re-examine their own internal structures with a view to facilitating coordination.

15. To enhance coordination and minimize duplication of efforts, and to raise awareness further, particularly among policy makers, concerning the magnitude of the water crisis which has reached global proportions, several experts emphasized the critical importance of information dissemination and management in devising a global water strategy. The need to compile and integrate data on the availability of freshwater in relation to demand, in order to demonstrate the seriousness of the water crisis, was stressed. One expert cited the importance of compiling systematic knowledge bases for the regional distribution of water, especially groundwater. Another observed the need to develop criteria for data collection. It was further suggested by one expert that duplication might be avoided by focusing on individual countries and their specific problems.

16. One expert stressed the complexity of water related to its four parallel functions: its health function, its habitat function, its two production functions (biomass production and societal production) and its function as a carrier of solutes and silt. She also suggested that integrated water resources management should also encompass aspects relating to land use and its impact on water management.

17. The impact of water scarcity on women was noted, as was the need to re-examine development strategies to strengthen women's participation at levels above the local level.

18. One member emphasized the inadequacy of financial inputs to the United Nations technical assistance programmes for mineral resources development; in that regard, the useful role of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration and the need to strengthen its financial base was cited. It was also noted that changes in consumption patterns were detrimental to the mineral industry and had resulted in the depression of metals prices. One member recommended that issues having an effect on consumption patterns be considered.

19. Another member emphasized the importance of the development and implementation of adequate social policies in order to respond to the ongoing trend towards privatization of the mining sector. He recommended that the Secretariat prepare a study on the social implications of the privatization of the mining industry. He also emphasized the important role of geological data standardization and the activities aimed at the creation and establishment of national data-bank information centres.

20. It was observed that the global assessment of mineral potential was currently based on identified resources only. It was indicated that the United Nations could take the lead in developing a long-term view of global mineral resource potential, that the United Nations needed to integrate it with other issues such as population growth and soil degradation, and that it should be a part of the United Nations mandate in accordance with the spirit of Agenda 21.

21. One member noted the sharp decline of available UNDP funding to sustain activities of the Department for Development Support and Management Services in the field of mineral resources as it addressed the areas of poverty alleviation and the environment.

22. Several experts noted that because of the general trend towards the privatization of state mining companies and the more open attitudes of countries towards foreign investment, the role of the Fund needed to be reappraised in the context of those broad developments.

23. In citing the usefulness of the report on remote-sensing (E/C.7/1994/11) in providing an overview of activities, several members proposed that the future report on remote-sensing should emphasize more technical aspects, and the Committee therefore requested an update on remote-sensing techniques and related matters, which was within the working framework of the Committee. There was a consensus to include remote-sensing issues as they related to water and minerals in each report to be prepared for the third session of the Committee.

24. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations University (UNU), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In many cases, background reports were circulated to the Committee members.

25. In emphasizing the need for strengthened cooperation between the regional commissions and the specialized agencies, several experts commented on the usefulness of information provided by United Nations agencies and organizations. There was general consensus on the need for background papers on the work of the regional commissions and the specialized agencies for consideration at the third session of the Committee.

Action taken by the Committee

Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination

26. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/L.3) entitled "Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination".

27. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the expert from Colombia.

28. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/9).

Chapter III

REVIEW AND RECASTING OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST SESSION

29. The Committee considered agenda item 4 at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 24 February 1994.

30. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing the recommendations of the Committee in regard to water resources (E/C.7/1994/CRP.1);

(b) Note by the Secretariat containing the recommendations of the Committee in regard to mineral resources (E/C.7/1994/CRP.2);

(c) Note by the Secretariat containing the recommendation of the Committee in regard to remote sensing (E/C.7/1994/CRP.3).

31. By its resolution 1993/302 of 29 July 1993, the Economic and Social Council requested the Committee on Natural Resources, at its second session to review and recast the recommendations it made at its first session, by following, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a standard pattern of reporting when submitting its resolutions to the Council.

Action taken by the Committee

Integrated water resources management

32. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.1, draft recommendation I) entitled "Integrated water resources management".

33. At the 6th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/1).

Coordination among United Nations organizations in the field of water resources management

34. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.1, draft recommendation II) entitled "Coordination among United Nations organizations in the field of water resources".

35. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Capacity-building in the field of water resources

36. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.1, draft recommendation III) entitled "Capacity-building in the field of water resources".

37. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/2).

Permanent sovereignty over water and mineral resources

38. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.1, draft recommendation IV) entitled "Permanent sovereignty over water and mineral resources".

39. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Activities of the United Nations system in the field of mineral resources

40. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.2, draft recommendation I) entitled "Activities of the United Nations system in the field of mineral resources".

41. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/3).

Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries

42. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.2, draft recommendation II) entitled "Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries".

43. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/4).

Issues concerning the more efficient use of materials, their recycling, their replacement by high technology substitutes, and the transfer of such technologies

44. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.2, draft recommendation III) entitled "Issues concerning the more efficient use of materials, their recycling, their replacement by high technology substitutes, and the transfer of such technologies".

45. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

Issues concerning the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment and implications of environmental protection and conservation policies and strategies in the mineral sector

46. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.2, draft recommendation IV) entitled "Issues concerning the International Round-table on Mining and the Environment and implications of environmental protection and conservation policies and strategies in the mineral sector".

47. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/5).

Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding enterprises in this area

48. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.2, draft recommendation V) entitled "Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding enterprises in this area".

49. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/6).

Priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of mineral resources

50. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.2, draft recommendation VI) entitled "Priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system in the area of mineral resources".

51. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/7).

Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources

52. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.2, draft recommendation VII) entitled "Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources".

53. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV).

New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources

54. At the 5th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/CRP.3, draft recommendation) entitled "New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources".

55. At the 6th meeting, on 24 February, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/8).

Chapter IV

REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON WATER-RELATED ISSUES

A. Review of progress, constraints and limitations in the implementation of water-related issues (including inputs from specialized agencies and the regional commissions)

56. The Committee considered item 5 (a) of its agenda at the 1st meeting of its Working Group on Water Resources on 25 February 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on water resources: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and of Agenda 21 on water-related issues (E/C.7/1994/4). A representative of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development introduced the report, which provided an overview of the interrelations between population, land and water resources. He noted that, whereas there had been a growing understanding of the finite and vulnerable nature of water resources and of the need for holistic approaches to land and water management, there was every reason to be concerned about the long-term sustainability of water resources development world wide. The question facing the Committee was whether, given the current state of affairs, the world was headed towards a water crisis of global proportions and what steps would need to be taken in order to avert such a crisis. The Committee identified the need to manage the resource at the lowest appropriate level, in accordance with the approaches taken at the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin, 1992) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). The Committee was also of the opinion that if significant long-term progress were to be achieved, Governments and the international community needed to attach priority attention to the establishment of dynamic, interactive, iterative and multisectoral approaches to water resources management, as an essential precondition to the implementation of all other recommendations contained in chapter 18 of Agenda 21, 27/ and to the implementation of diagnostic assessments of their current institutional arrangements and human resources capacity, with a view to formulating strategies for the future.

57. The Committee commended the quality of the report prepared by the Secretariat and expressed its view that certain areas could be expanded to define more accurately the nature of the global water crisis.

58. Most experts agreed that an update on the current report would be needed for the third session of the Committee, possibly to be entitled "Twenty years after Mar del Plata". The importance of strategies for integrated water resources management and linkages between water and land issues were stressed. The report could be strengthened by requesting the regional commissions to prepare regional summaries and specific countries to prepare case-studies of successful strategies. Integrated approaches to water resources management should address ways to reduce institutional fragmentation and should not be limited to drinking water supply and sanitation. It was also suggested that the report might include a section from ECE on current developments in water-related issues in the transitional economies of Central and Eastern Europe.

27/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution II, annex II.

59. The representative of the ECE Secretariat said that its Working Party on Water Problems had recently completed a draft report which, inter alia, covered the water management situation in Europe's transitional economies. Relevant information from the report, once endorsed by the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, would be forwarded to the Secretariat, to be included in the update of the current document.

60. Several experts expressed the view that overextraction and pollution of groundwater were serious problems and that groundwater protection needed to be emphasized. Legislation and enforcement, combined with user participation, were required if groundwater were to be managed and protected effectively.

61. Another area that needed attention was the reclamation of irrigation areas rather than the opening up of new irrigation schemes. Planning had to balance the needs for agricultural and non-agricultural land use and alternative ways to raise agricultural production and irrigation efficiency. Water resources schemes of various sizes were needed to take into account environmental concerns and watershed management. The related problems of waterlogging and salinization of irrigated lands would have to be addressed. One expert emphasized the linkage between water and land use and proposed that attention be directed to the Commission on Sustainable Development's consideration of chapter 10 of Agenda 21 in that regard.

62. Several delegates stressed that prior assessment of resources was necessary before proper planning and management would be possible. Proper monitoring and follow-up would be required. One expert noted that massive financial support from external agencies would be required for such assessments.

63. A number of experts endorsed the final paragraph (para. 79) of the report and felt that its contents should be conveyed to the Economic and Social Council. They stressed the need for a multisectoral approach and for diagnostic assessment of the current institutional arrangements and human resources capacity at the national level as a basis for formulating strategies for the future.

64. Unless there were serious attempts to alleviate poverty, discussions of environmental degradation would be idle. It would be necessary to create mass awareness at the national and international levels of the water crisis and to take corrective action as a demonstration of the seriousness of the situation.

B. Consideration of new instruments for global action

65. In considering agenda item 5 (b), at the 1st meeting of the Working Group on Water Resources on 25 February 1994, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international instruments for global action (E/C.7/1994/5). The report was introduced by a representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services, who provided an overview of the principal international instruments focusing on the relationship between water and the environment. She placed emphasis on some of the principles emanating from the Conference on Water and the Environment and on Agenda 21.

66. Several experts emphasized the importance of raising the level of international attention and action on the global water crisis through the establishment of some kind of legal instrument which might impart greater status to water issues. Discussions were held on what that might entail - i.e., a code of conduct, a water law, a framework convention, or a declaration of principles.

It was generally believed that it would be more difficult to obtain agreement on a convention, which would be legally binding.

67. One expert felt that the focus for such an instrument should be integrated water management and the need for greater balance in water use.

68. Another expert stressed the need for a framework convention on the water cycle, focusing on linkages between water resources and land use, and the need to protect water resources from pollution.

69. The representative of the ECE secretariat described in detail water-related conventions established under ECE auspices, in particular in the fields of water management, air pollution, environmental impact assessment and industrial accidents, affirming that they had had a strong impact on the level of public awareness and on capacity-building, particularly for the economies in transition, which must establish new laws and infrastructures to strengthen water management. One expert suggested that the success of the ECE conventions might be related to the relatively high level of awareness in Europe of water issues.

70. The Committee encouraged ECE to provide information that could be incorporated into the report discussed in paragraph 58.

71. It was proposed by one expert that the Commission on Sustainable Development be requested to set up a task force to explore various options. It was confirmed that the Committee would be able to convey recommendations to the Commission on Sustainable Development in time for its session of May/June 1994.

Action taken by the Committee

Follow-up to chapter 18 of Agenda 21

72. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March, the Committee had before it a draft decision (E/C.7/1994/L.7) entitled "Follow-up to chapter 18 of Agenda 21".

73. Before the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the experts from Zimbabwe, Kenya, Canada and Benin.

74. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 2/1).

75. After the adoption of the draft decision, the expert from Argentina made a statement in which he said that he did not agree with the inclusion of the phrase "based on Agenda 21", which appeared at the end of paragraph 5 (b).

Chapter V

LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

76. The Committee considered agenda item 6 at the 2nd meeting of its Working Group on Water Resources, on 1 March 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on institutional and legal issues in integrated water resources management (E/C.7/1994/6).

77. The representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services introduced the report, emphasizing that the institutional issues affecting water resources management were wide in scope, and not necessarily limited only to water legislation. The representative of the Department of Development Support and Management Services suggested that proper water management required conditionalities. While most countries regulated and imposed conditions on the exercise of water rights (effective and beneficial use), there were examples of cases where water rights were issued without conditionalities. There was a trend towards controlling water pollution and protecting environmental values associated with water. As water use and environmental risks intensified, countries tended to implement stricter enforcement provisions. Mechanisms to protect water supplies, such as the creation of protection areas and the control of groundwater, were increasingly common.

78. Countries were trying to develop conflict-solving alternatives, such as mediation and consultation. Many countries included principles on scientific development and technology in their water legislation, covering a wide range of issues such as pollution control, drinking water supply and sanitation.

79. Issues such as marketing of water-related outputs, proper evaluation of subsidies (including the assessment of the environmental impacts of agricultural subsidies for irrigation), and marketing of water rights were of increased importance for water legislation and water-related litigation.

80. Finally, references were made to the trends to vest water resources management in independent organizations, rather than subsectoral agencies; to the concerns about transfer of some water-related services to the private sector (quality assurance, economic and financial viability, metering, and environmental concerns); and to the need for appropriate information.

81. The Chairman and some members asked how many countries had been asked for information on water legislation and institutional arrangements and how many had responded to that request. The questionnaire had been sent to participants attending the first session of the Committee, through local UNDP offices, but not all had responded.

82. It was noted also that the legislative branch was normally responsible for the enactment of water policies and that the introduction of legislation should take into consideration resources as a whole, and not only subsectoral interests, based on constituent pressure. Water policy formulation was a complex interdisciplinary process.

83. The Committee commended the high quality and useful structure of the report. The following additional topics were suggested, to be included in future reports: users' participation; dissemination of information related to

legislation; the importance of appropriate institutional arrangements and the problems of fragmented water management; how to reconcile decentralization with systematic and coherent water management; and institutional and legal factors preventing integrated natural resources management. The experiences of several large countries, with strong independent units in water management, should be studied. A number of members felt that the report lacked information on experience in tropical and water-scarce countries of Africa and other regions. Information on arid areas, the relevance of climatic conditions and the need to integrate water and land management would be useful. An earlier report by the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development on demand management, and the findings and results of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, could be part of future documentation to be submitted on the subject. The results of a meeting in Mexico on users' participation, which was soon to take place, might be useful to the Committee.

84. The representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) summarized the activities of ECLAC in the area of legislation and institutional arrangements, including reports and workshops, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme. The representative of the World Bank suggested that future reports pay special attention to the question of stakeholders' participation.

85. It was proposed that a report on institutional, legal and organizational issues, including pricing, stakeholder participation and institutional constraints to overall natural resources management, be prepared for the next session of the Committee.

86. With regard to intersessional activities, the members requested that two strategic and forward-looking policy-oriented documents be prepared by the Committee, under the leadership of Mr. R. W. Roye Rutland for the minerals sector and Ms. Malin Falkenmark for the water sector. These would be short background papers on issues and solutions for the next few decades, which would be considered at the third session of the Committee. Inputs by other members were requested.

Action taken by the Committee

Integrated water resources management

87. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March 1994, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/L.8) entitled "Integrated water resources management".

88. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, draft resolution V).

Chapter VI

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN THE MINERAL SECTOR

A. Flow of financial resources, development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries and economies in transition

89. The Committee considered item 7 (a) of its agenda at the 1st meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources on 28 February 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and the development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources sector of developing countries and economies in transition (E/C.7/1994/7).

90. The report was introduced by a representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services. He emphasized that developing countries and economies in transition had benefited from an inflow of funding and technical expertise from the international private sector and from multilateral and bilateral aid programmes. He pointed to the need for ensuring the availability of legal/regulatory as well as reliable geo-scientific information. In conclusion, he noted that United Nations Member States had outlined the need to evaluate natural resource projects and provide geo-scientific data; many Member States depended on those activities.

91. Several experts expressed their appreciation for the quality of the report and its clear and concise presentation of the issues, although some experts pointed out that the environmental issue should have been addressed as well.

92. It was observed that the developing countries and the economies in transition suffered from a lack of expertise in overseeing international accounting financial practices and in negotiating with transnational corporations. In addition, the development of case studies on developing countries with United Nations assistance would assist in disseminating information on mining potential. One expert emphasized the need for improving geo-scientific information and database systems.

93. Another comment was made on the critical need for developing countries and economies in transition to prepare a modern legal framework and model agreements for mining. Problems related to budget constraints and the restructuring of economies were outlined. It was further suggested that the Committee needed to seek economic instruments that would ensure reasonable returns for host countries.

94. Several experts mentioned the need to improve process issues - i.e., the streamlining of approvals within government systems and between different levels of government, in order to ensure the efficiency of administration and the timeliness of approvals.

95. The experts were also concerned about the implementation of the principles of sustainable development in the mineral sector. They noted that there was need to assist developing countries and economies in transition in preparing standardized environmental guidelines in order to ensure that companies worked in accordance with a base criteria.

96. One expert mentioned the issue of political stability as it affected the level of foreign investment and suggested that the generation of popular support for mining activity was one way of mitigating instability.

97. Another expert noted that the United Nations was currently undertaking a restructuring of its economic and social sectors, including its natural resources sector. It was recommended that the United Nations, particularly the Department for Development Support and Management Services, continue its support of mineral sector activities by maintaining the same level of support to the Committee, to the developing countries and to the economies in transition as it had done in the past.

98. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific also made a statement.

Action taken by the Committee

Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries and economies in transition

99. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March 1994, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/L.5) entitled "Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries and economies in transition".

100. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/10).

B. Regional mineral resource assessment programmes

101. The Committee considered item 7 (b) of its agenda at the 1st meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 28 February 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General containing a review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs (E/C.7/1994/8).

102. The representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services introduced the report. He emphasized that resource assessment information, gathered without consideration for the specific policy decisions that might be influenced by the data, could not be used, regardless of the quality of the assessment. That may partially explain why so much of the mineral resource information gathered in developing countries was never used to make any substantive policy decisions. Despite the inherent errors in resource assessment methodologies, planners and policy makers could more effectively establish long-term development strategies for a country by considering estimates of the economic potential of discovered and undiscovered mineral resources.

103. Several members expressed their appreciation for the quality of the report and stressed that minerals were a part of the crust of the earth, which figured prominently in Agenda 21 in terms of integrated approaches to the planning and management of land resources. Therefore, lack of significant mention of the mineral sector should not restrain the Committee from making substantial recommendations to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

104. The members noted that the resource assessment information developed and made available on a global basis could provide guidance to States Members of the United Nations and United Nations bodies, as well as to investors, in reorienting policies for improvement of the infrastructure in mining areas and for improving information for development of that potential. They stressed that that information was an essential part of broader information in support of integrated natural resource management, as recommended in chapter 10 of Agenda 21.

105. One member expressed the need for characterization of the regions of the earth's crust so that they could be linked to the potential for discovery of mineral deposit types. The value of identifying promising tracts in various parts of the world for developing a scientific understanding of the global resource potential and for long-term sustainable development was also cited.

106. Another member stated that the Committee should recommend action on the question of substitution/replacement of mineral resources with plastics and other industrial products because the volume of minerals consumed by mankind was rising and it would be useful for the Committee to monitor that tendency.

Action taken by the Committee

Review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resources needs

107. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March 1994, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/L.6) entitled "Review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs".

108. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI).

C. Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition

109. The Committee considered item 7 (c) of its agenda at the 2nd meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources, on 2 March 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition (E/C.7/1994/9).

110. The report was introduced by a representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services. He highlighted small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition. Particular emphasis was given to social and environmental impacts related to legislation and regulations, and mechanized operations, with special attention to the role and contribution of women. He also spoke on the implementation of regional programmes in gold, gemstones, and industrial minerals and on small-scale mechanized mining enterprises to be used as models and demonstration projects for applying appropriate technology to small-scale mining. The diversity of the involvement and range of small-scale mining activities was also addressed in his statement. In addition, he highlighted the important issues of health, safety, and improvement of the miners' working conditions.

111. The high quality and practical value of the report was commended by several experts of the Committee.

112. One expert suggested that a report be prepared for the third session of the Committee on the question of attracting foreign investment and on technologies for setting up small-scale mining enterprises and the organization on the basis of those joint ventures.

113. A proposal was made by several experts with regard to establishing an information mechanism to disseminate experience and technological achievements in small-scale mining, since local/regional governments were interested in keeping people involved in small-scale mining activity within a given region. The point was made that it was easy to mobilize local opinion in the development of small-scale mining.

114. One expert suggested that the so-called garimpeiros in Latin America should be treated as small-scale mining entrepreneurs and a legal framework be established for them.

115. Several experts supported the suggestion to create rural cottage and semi-industrial development centres which could provide an impetus for more formal and successful participation by local people in entrepreneurial activities. It was proposed that that point be the core of a resolution on the subject.

116. Comments of several experts were related to the agenda of the next session of the Committee. Highlighting the positive role of the small-scale mining sector for sustainable development in developing countries denoted an awareness that the social and environmental impacts of small-scale mining were highly influenced by local legislation and regulations.

117. Concern relating to the association between illegal mining activity and poverty in rural areas and its negative impact on the environment was expressed by many speakers.

118. The representative of the International Labour Organization made a statement in which he informed the Committee that the ILO is in the process of discussing and adopting an international labour standard on safety and health in mines, which would also apply to small-scale mining operations.

Action taken by the Committee

Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition

119. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March 1994, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/L.9) entitled "Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition".

120. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the experts from Zimbabwe, Australia, Kenya and Zambia. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. In addition, the Chairman of the Committee made a statement.

121. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/11).

122. Also at the 7th meeting, the Committee had before it a draft decision (E/C.7/1994/L.11) entitled "Recommendations on mineral resources for transmission to the Commission on Sustainable Development".

123. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 2/2).

Chapter VII

EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION POLICIES ON THE MINERAL SECTOR (INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF AVAILABLE STUDIES BY CONCERNED ENTITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF EXPLORATION AND MINING, AND REVIEW OF STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGIES DEALING WITH PROCESSING OF MINING WASTES AND TAILINGS)

124. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at the second meeting of its Working Group on Mineral Resources on 2 March 1994. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on effects of changing environmental policy on the world mineral industry (E/C.7/1994/10).

125. The report was introduced by a representative of the Department for Development Support and Management Services. She highlighted the major points of the report including the need for Governments to find new and innovative ways to ensure that environmentally sustainable goals are met. One of the matters raised was the need for new technical and managerial capabilities to deal with emerging technologies as well as to ensure proper environmental management. She concluded by raising a number of questions which needed consideration if new approaches were to be enunciated.

126. Several experts of the Committee praised the thoroughness and high quality of the report.

127. One expert spoke about the dilemmas regarding competing uses of land. He also mentioned the costs of cleaning up existing environmentally damaged mining sites and suggested that Governments must give priority to technological changes which would eliminate those consequences.

128. Other experts pointed out that mining had the image of being a polluting industry and that must be rectified. They commented that there were other activities which had greater negative impacts on the environment and stressed the importance of informing the public of the very positive efforts which had been made by mining companies.

129. A point was made that economies in transition had been faced with major environmental problems in mining and had tried to address them by introducing strict regulations. The need to look at the various implications of the impacts deriving from those problems - for example, mine closures - resulting in social disruptions, was acute.

130. One expert pointed out that his country had both national and state environmental councils as well as non-governmental organizations which worked directly in the area. Another expert pointed out that his country was introducing more measures to address commitments made under international treaties as well as forming a Commonwealth environmental protection agency.

131. Several experts provided clarifications and updates on the legal and administrative mechanisms applicable to their respective countries in order to complement information provided by the report.

132. An observer outlined developments in his country and informed the Committee of the possibility of a permanent committee on environment being established in GATT.

133. A representative from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean also made a statement.

Action taken by the Committee

Effects of environmental protection and conservation policies on the mineral sector (including the consideration of available studies by concerned entities of the United Nations system on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining, and review of state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining wastes and tailings)

134. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March 1994, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (E/C.7/1994/L.10) entitled "Effects of environmental protection and conservation policies on the mineral sector (including the consideration of available studies by concerned entities of the United Nations system on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining, and review of the state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining wastes and tailings)".

135. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 2/12).

Chapter VIII

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

136. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March 1994, the Committee considered the provisional agenda for its third session, together with a list of requested documentation, and recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the provisional agenda and the requested documentation, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

Chapter IX

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS SECOND SESSION

137. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March 1994, the Committee adopted the report on its second session (E/C.7/1994/L.4 and Add.1-6) as amended during the discussion.

Chapter X

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

138. The Committee on Natural Resources held its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 February to 4 March 1994. It held 7 meetings. The session was opened by Mr. Guillermo Cano, a Vice-Chairman of the Committee at its first session.

139. At the 1st meeting, on 22 February, the Acting Director of the Division of Economic Policy and Social Development made an opening statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services.

140. In accordance with paragraph 7 (b) (ii) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/235 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Committee had two working groups, one on mineral resources and one on water resources. The Working Group on Water Resources held 4 meetings and the Working Group on Mineral Resources held 2.

B. Membership and attendance

141. In accordance with its decision 1992/218, the Economic and Social Council, having recalled General Assembly resolution 46/235, decided to establish, inter alia, a Committee on Natural Resources composed of 24 government-nominated experts from different Member States, who possessed the necessary qualifications and professional or scientific knowledge, and who would act in their personal capacities, elected by the Council for a four-year term.

142. Nineteen members of the Committee attended the second session: Guillermo Jorge Cano, Patrick M. Chipungu, Denis A. Davis, Vladislav M. Dolgopolov, Malin Falkenmark, Ugo Farinelli, Marek Hoffmann, Mohammad Nawaz Khan, José Manuel Mejia, Thomas P. Z. Mpofu, Erastus Kabutu Mwongera, Dossou Barthélémy Otchoun, Hendrik Martinus Oudshoorn, Neculai Pavlovschi, Karlheinz Rieck, R. W. Roye Rutland, Luis Fernando Soares de Assis, Natarayan Suryanarayanan, Zhang Hai-Lun.

143. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Canada, Lebanon, Turkey and the United States of America.

144. The following regional commissions were represented: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

145. The following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Bank and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

146. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Association for Water Law, International Chamber of Commerce and Water Environment Federation.

C. Election of officers

147. At the 1st to 3rd meetings, on 22 and 23 February 1994, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following officers:

Chairman: Mohammad Nawaz KHAN

Vice-Chairmen: Guillermo Jorge CANO
Patrick M. CHIPUNGU
Denis A. DAVIS
Neculai PAVLOVSCHI

Rapporteur: Patrick M. CHIPUNGU

D. Agenda

148. At the 1st meeting, on 22 February, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/C.7/1994/1 (see annex I to the present report).

149. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of work for the session (E/C.7/1994/L.2).

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE SECOND SESSION

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination.

4. Review and recasting of the recommendations made by the Committee at its first session.

5. Review of progress on water-related issues:

   (a) Review of progress, constraints and limitations in the implementation of water-related issues (including inputs from specialized agencies and regional commissions);

   (b) Consideration of new instruments for global action.

6. Legislative and institutional aspects of water resources management.

7. Economic and social development needs in the mineral sector:

   (a) Flow of financial resources, development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries and economies in transition;

   (b) Regional mineral resource assessment programmes;

   (c) Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition.

8. Effects of environmental protection and conservation policies on the mineral sector (including consideration of available studies by concerned entities of the United Nations system on the impact on the environment of exploration and mining, and review of state-of-the-art technologies dealing with processing of mining wastes and tailings).

9. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS SECOND SESSION

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.7/1994/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/C.7/1994/2	3	Activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and inter-agency coordination in the field of water resources: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/3	3	Technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/4	5	Progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan and of Agenda 21 on water-related issues: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/5	5 (b)	International instruments with implications for global action: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/6	6	Institutional and legal issues related to integrated water resources management: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/7	7	Ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and the development and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources sector of developing countries and economies in transition: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/8	7 (b)	Review of regional mineral resource assessment programmes and resource needs: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/9	7 (c)	Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and economies in transition: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/10	8	The effects of changing environmental policy on the world mineral industry: report of the Secretary-General
E/C.7/1994/11	3	Existing international principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data are related, and present state of activities within the United Nations system: report of the Secretary-General

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.7/1994/12	3	Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration
E/C.7/1994/L.1	2	Organization of work: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1994/L.2	2	State of preparation of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1994/L.3	3	Draft resolution submitted by 17 experts of the Committee
E/C.7/1994/L.4 and addenda	10	Draft report of the Committee
E/C.7/1994/L.5	7 (a)	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Neculai Pavlovschi (Romania)
E/C.7/1994/L.6	7 (b)	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Neculai Pavlovschi (Romania)
E/C.7/1994/L.7	5 and 6	Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. D. A. Davis (Canada)
E/C.7/1994/L.8	6	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. D. A. Davis (Canada)
E/C.7/1994/L.9	7 (c)	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Neculai Pavlovschi (Romania)
E/C.7/1994/L.10	8	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Neculai Pavlovschi (Romania)
E/C.7/1994/L.11	7	Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Neculai Pavlovschi (Romania)
E/C.7/1994/CRP.1	4	Recommendations of the Committee in regard to water resources: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1994/CRP.2	4	Recommendations of the Committee in regard to mineral resources: note by the Secretariat
E/C.7/1994/CRP.3	4	Recommendations of the Committee in regard to remote sensing: note by the Secretariat